



Ken Wagner, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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Enclosure 5d5  
April 24, 2018

May 15, 2018

**TO:** Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

**FROM:** Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Necessity of School Construction: North Smithfield

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program and the SBA Capital Fund. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. Article 9 of the FY16 State Budget lifted the moratorium on school construction, created the School Building Authority (SBA) at the RI Department of Education, created the SBA Capital Fund, and changed the multi-stage Necessity of School Construction application to an annual process. Because of this, the Board will be asked to review and approve projects annually at the end of each fiscal year.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve prioritized Major Projects and Fast Track Repairs. A chart summarizing North Smithfield School District's projects is provided in Attachment 1.

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$8,308,623 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$2,908,018):**

**North Smithfield:**

- |     |                              |              |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------|
| i.  | North Smithfield Elementary  | \$ 4,335,187 |
| ii. | North Smithfield High School | \$ 3,973,436 |

## SUMMARY: FY 2018 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

| NORTH SMITHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT | BRIEF DESCRIPTION  | JUSTIFICATION   | FY 2018 AID SHARE RATIO* | ESTIMATED PROJECT COST        | STATE SHARE | STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST** |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Major Projects</b>            | This project includes an addition and renovations at the North Smithfield Elementary – as part of a districtwide masterplan that includes closing the Halliwell Elementary School. | This plan includes the consolidation of two elementary schools into one – the North Smithfield Elementary. This project includes an addition to accommodate 4 <sup>th</sup> grade students from Halliwell, and will address high priority systems repairs, as well as educational program improvements to accommodate all elementary aged students. | 35%                      | \$4,000,000 (Bond)            | \$1,400,000 | \$1,988,000               |
| <b>Fast Track Repairs</b>        | As part of the masterplan this project will address repairs at the North Smithfield Elementary School and the North Smithfield High School.  | This project includes health and safety improvements, including: fire safety upgrades, electrical and plumbing repairs, site repairs, building envelope repairs, educational program improvements, and other building system improvements that affect student and staff health and safety   |                          | \$4,308,623 (Capital Reserve) | \$1,508,018 | \$1,508,018               |

\* State share ratio is based on FY2018 calculation. District may be eligible for additional reimbursement through bonus incentives.

\*\* Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest. North Smithfield intends to pay for projects out of both bond proceeds and capital reserve funds as detailed above.